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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2015

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.33)*]

70/125. Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The General Assembly

Adopts the following outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at its seventieth session:

Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

We, the Ministers and heads of delegations participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2015,

Recalling the request in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[1] that the General Assembly undertake an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015, and in this regard reaffirming the role of the Assembly in this process, and reaffirming also that the Assembly, in its resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014, decided that the overall review would be concluded by a two-day high-level meeting of the Assembly, preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process that also meaningfully takes into account inputs from all relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming the constructive and diverse inputs from Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders in taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and addressing potential information and communications technology gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as challenges, including bridging digital

[1] See A/60/687.

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divides and harnessing information and communications technology for development,

Building on, among other relevant inputs, the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society conducted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in May 2015, and its outcome document, entitled "Implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes: a 10-year review"; the multi-stakeholder 10-year review event hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled "Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development", held in February 2013, and its final statement, entitled "Information and knowledge for all: an expanded vision and a renewed commitment"; and the multi-stakeholder high-level event for the review of the World Summit, coordinated and hosted by the International Telecommunication Union and organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme in June 2014, and its outcomes, the statement of the 10-year review of the World Summit on the implementation of World Summit outcomes, and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015, both adopted by consensus,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

1. We reaffirm our common desire and commitment to the World Summit on the Information Society vision to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[3]

[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] Resolution 217 A (III).

refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants and remote and rural communities.

8. We reaffirm that Internet governance should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis.

9. We reaffirm, moreover, that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. We emphasize that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

10. Building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies for sustainable development should also be a priority, especially given growing challenges, including the abuse of such technologies for harmful activities from harassment to crime to terrorism.

11. We reiterate our commitments to the positive uses of the Internet and other information and communications technologies and to taking appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of those technologies, as mentioned under the ethical dimensions of the information society in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action. We also recognize the importance of ethics, as set out in action line C10 of the Plan of Action, in building the information society and strengthening the role of information and communications technologies as enablers of development.

1. Information and communications technology for development

12. We commit to harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We accordingly call upon all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and request United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and work plans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

13. We recognize with satisfaction that the previous decade's considerable increases in connectivity, use, creation and innovation have created new tools to drive poverty eradication and economic, social and environmental betterment. For example, fixed and wireless broadband, mobile Internet, smartphones and tablets, cloud computing, open data, social media and big data were only in their early stages at the time of the adoption of the Tunis Agenda, and are now understood to be significant enablers of sustainable development.

14. We reaffirm that the expansion and use of information and communications technologies must continue to be a core focus and outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society process. We are highly encouraged that the number of mobile phone subscriptions is estimated to have risen from 2.2 billion in 2005 to 7.1 billion in 2015, and that by the end of 2015, 3.2 billion people are expected to be online, over 43 per cent of the total world population, of which 2 billion are from developing countries. We also note that fixed broadband subscriptions have reached a penetration rate of almost 10 per cent, as compared

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with 3.4 per cent in 2005, and that mobile broadband remains the fastest growing market segment, with continuous double-digit growth rates reaching 47 per cent in 2015, a value that increased 12 times since 2007.

15. We note that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy, and that connectivity is correlated with increases in gross domestic product. Information and communications technologies have created a new generation of businesses, innovators and jobs, while altering and making obsolete others, and have also generally increased the efficiency, market access and ingenuity of all sectors. We recognize the critical importance of expanding the participation of all countries, particularly developing countries, in the digital economy.

16. We also recognize that information and communications technologies are contributing to higher levels of social benefit and inclusion, providing new channels among citizens, businesses and Governments to share and augment knowledge, as well as participate in decisions that affect their lives and work. As envisioned by the World Summit on the Information Society action lines, we have seen information and communications technology-enabled breakthroughs in Government, including in the provision of public services, education, health care and employment, as well as in business, agriculture and science, with greater numbers of people having access to services and data that might previously have been out of reach or unaffordable.

17. We simultaneously recognize that information and communications technologies are fundamentally altering the way individuals and communities interact, consume and spend their time, with new and unforeseen health and social consequences, many of which are positive and some of which raise concerns.

18. We recognize that information and communications technologies have become important to disaster and humanitarian response, and further reaffirm their role in enhancing and developing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. We also encourage greater investments in innovation and technology development for long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research in the field of disaster risk management.

19. We recognize that information and communications technologies are also increasingly a means to support the diversity of cultural expression and the fast-growing cultural and creative industries, and we affirm that comprehensive, practical digital strategies are needed for the preservation of cultural heritage and access to recorded information in the digital environment in all its forms.

20. We further recognize that increasing use of information and communications technologies both generates certain environmental benefits and imposes certain environmental costs, which we aim to reduce. We welcome the opportunity afforded by sustainable energy to potentially decouple the growth of information and communications technologies from contributions to climate change, and we also note their catalytic value for the deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart and resilient city concepts and Internet-enabled delivery of services, among other abatement options. However, we recognize that we must encourage further action to improve the resource efficiency of information and communications technologies and to reuse, recycle and safely dispose of e-waste.

1.1 Bridging digital divides

21. Despite the previous decade's achievements in information and communications technology connectivity, we express concern that many forms of digital divides remain, both between and within countries and between women and men. We note that divides are often closely linked to education levels and existing inequalities, and we recognize that further divides can emerge in the future, slowing sustainable development. We acknowledge that, as of 2015, only around 43 per cent of people globally had Internet access, only 41 per cent of women had Internet access and an estimated 80 per cent of online content was available in only one of 10 languages. The poor are the most excluded from the benefits of information and communications technology.

22. We further express concern that digital divides remain between developed and developing countries and that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies. As of 2015, only 34 per cent of households in developing countries had Internet access, with significant variations by country, as compared with more than 80 per cent in developed countries. This means that two thirds of the households in developing countries do not have Internet access.

23. We affirm our commitment to bridging digital and knowledge divides, and we recognize that our approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access. We acknowledge that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of quality, and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development. We acknowledge, moreover, that differences in individuals' capabilities to both use and create information and communications technologies represent a knowledge divide that perpetuates inequality. We note, too, the ambition to move beyond "information societies" to "knowledge societies", in which information is not only created and disseminated, but put to the benefit of human development. We recognize that such divides may change with technological and service innovation, and we call upon all stakeholders, particularly United Nations entities that are facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines, within their mandate and existing resources, to continue working together to regularly analyse the nature of digital divides, study strategies to bridge them and make their findings available to the international community.

24. We underscore the need for further development of local content and services in a variety of languages and formats that are accessible to all people, who also need the capabilities and capacities, including media, information and digital literacy skills, to make use of and further develop information and communications technologies. Accordingly, we recognize the vital importance of the principles of multilingualism in the information society to ensure the linguistic, cultural and historical diversity of all nations. We further recognize the value of the variety of interoperable and affordable information and communications technology solutions, including such models as proprietary, open-source, and free software.

25. We call, moreover, for a significant increase in access to information and communications technologies, and encourage all stakeholders to strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet for all. We welcome the efforts of all stakeholders in pursuit of these goals, including efforts being undertaken in the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development, adopted by

the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union in 2014.

26. We also recognize digital divides in digital uses and literacy and the need to bridge them.

27. We emphasize our concern that only 41 per cent of women have Internet access, and draw attention to the gender digital divide, which persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development. We recognize that ending the gender digital divide and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender are mutually reinforcing efforts, and we commit to mainstreaming gender in the World Summit on the Information Society process, including through a new emphasis on gender in the implementation and monitoring of the action lines, with the support of relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). We call for immediate measures to achieve gender equality in Internet users by 2020, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education and participation in information and communications technologies, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure women's full participation in decision-making processes related to information and communications technologies.

1.2 Enabling environment

28. We recognize that certain policies have substantially contributed to bridging digital divides and the value of information and communications technologies for sustainable development, and we commit to continuing to identify and implement best and emerging practices for the establishment and functioning of education, innovation and investment frameworks for information and communications technologies.

29. We recognize the importance of the free flow of information and knowledge, as the amount of information distributed worldwide grows and the role of communication becomes all the more important. We acknowledge that the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, the fostering of competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development.

30. We recognize that a lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and middle-income countries, as well as countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters. All efforts should be deployed to reduce the price of information and communications technologies and broadband access, bearing in mind that deliberate interventions, including through research and development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, may be necessary to spur lower-cost connectivity options.

31. In building the information society, States are strongly urged to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development and hinders the well-being of the people of the affected countries.

32. We recognize that the radio frequency spectrum should be managed in the public interest and in accordance with legal principles, with full observance of national laws and regulations as well as relevant international agreements.

33. We call for a special focus on actions that improve the enabling environment for information and communications technologies and expand related education and capacity-building opportunities. We also request the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its mandate related to the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, and all action line facilitators, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to work with all stakeholders to regularly identify and promote specific, detailed actions to support the enabling environment for information and communications technologies and development and provide the demand-driven policy advice, technical assistance and capacity-building, as appropriate, to realize them.

1.3 Financial mechanisms

34. We welcome the fact that total public and private spending on information and communications technologies has increased substantially in the last decade, now reaching trillions of dollars annually, and that it has been complemented by a proliferation of new financing mechanisms, both results marking progress on paragraphs 23 and 27 of the Tunis Agenda.

35. We recognize, however, that harnessing information and communications technology for development and bridging digital divides will require greater and sustainable investment in infrastructure and services, capacity-building, promotion of joint research and development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms. These mechanisms remain a primary focus for all countries and people, particularly developing countries.

36. We commit to efficient public resource allocation to deployment and development of information and communications technology, recognizing the need for budgeting for information and communications technology across all sectors, especially education. We stress that capacity is a major barrier to closing digital divides, and we recommend that capacity development, including for innovation, be emphasized to empower local experts and local communities to benefit fully from and contribute to information and communications technology applications for development. We recognize the potential to improve connectivity, especially in remote and rural areas, through universal service funds and publicly funded network infrastructure, among other tools, particularly in areas where market conditions make investment difficult.

37. We note the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[5] and recognize that official development assistance and other concessional financial flows for information and communications technology can make significant contributions to

[5] Resolution 69/313, annex.

development outcomes, in particular where they can reduce the risk of public and private investment, and increase the use of information and communications technology to strengthen good governance and tax collection.

38. We recognize the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, and we encourage Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation. We also recognize the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to this end.

39. We encourage a prominent profile for information and communications technologies in the new Technology Facilitation Mechanism established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and consideration of how it can contribute to implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines.

40. We note with concern the challenges in implementing the Digital Solidarity Fund, which was welcomed in the Tunis Agenda as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature. We call for an ongoing evaluation of innovative financing options in the annual review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

2. Human rights in the information society

41. We reaffirm the commitment set out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Commitment to the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights.[6] We also reaffirm that democracy, sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as good governance at all levels, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We resolve to strengthen respect for the rule of law in international, as in national, affairs.

42. We recognize that human rights have been central to the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society and that information and communications technologies have shown their potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights, enabling access to information, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association.

43. We reaffirm, moreover, as an essential foundation of the information society and as recognized in Human Rights Council resolution 26/13 of 26 June 2014[7] and General Assembly resolution 69/166 of 18 December 2014, that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online.

44. We note with concern, however, that there are serious threats to freedom of expression and plurality of information, and we call for the protection of journalists, media workers and civil society space. We call upon States to take all appropriate measures necessary to ensure the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and association and the right not to be

[6] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, in accordance with their human rights obligations.

45. We reaffirm our commitment to article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which it is stated that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. We also recall the commitments made under article 19 by States that are party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[8] We underscore the need to respect the independence of media. We believe that communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and the foundation of all social organization, and is therefore central to the information society. Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate, and no one should be excluded from the benefits that the information society offers.

46. We recall General Assembly resolution 69/166 and, in this context, emphasize that no person shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, consistent with countries' obligations under international human rights law. Accordingly, we call upon all States to review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, as well as their interception and collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, with a view to upholding the right to privacy as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for States that are party to the Covenant, by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law.

47. We reaffirm our commitment to the provisions in article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his or her personality is possible and that, in the exercise of his or her rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. In this way, we shall promote an information society in which human dignity is respected.

3. Building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies

48. We affirm that strengthening confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies for the development of information societies and the success of such technologies is a driver for economic and social innovation.

49. We welcome the significant efforts by Governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and academia to build confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies, including by the International Telecommunication Union, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the

[8] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

problem of cybercrime and the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, among other international, regional and national efforts.

50. We recognize the leading role for Governments in cybersecurity matters relating to national security. We further recognize the important roles and contributions of all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities. We reaffirm that building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies should be consistent with human rights.

51. We recognize the important role of international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, in building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies by States, and welcome the 2013 and 2015 reports of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.[9]

52. We are concerned, however, about certain growing uses of information and communications technologies that threaten security and development benefits, including the use of such technologies for terrorist purposes and cybercrime. We express the need for existing legal and enforcement frameworks to keep up with the speed of technological change and its application. Furthermore, we note concerns that attacks against States, institutions, companies, other entities and individuals are now being undertaken through digital means. We reiterate our belief that a global culture of cybersecurity needs to be promoted and developed and that cybersecurity measures should be implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies in order to foster trust and security in the information society.

53. We call upon Member States to intensify efforts to build robust domestic security in information and communications technologies and the use thereof, consistent with their international obligations and domestic law. We further call upon Member States to cooperate on transnational issues of information and communications technologies and the use thereof, including capacity-building and cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of the technologies and preventing the use of technology, communications and resources for criminal or terrorist purposes.

54. We recognize the challenges that States, in particular developing countries, face in building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies. We call for renewed focus on capacity-building, education, knowledge-sharing and regulatory practice, as well as promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation at all levels and raising awareness among users of information and communications technologies, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable.

4. Internet governance

55. We reaffirm paragraph 55 of the Tunis Agenda, and in this regard we recognize that the existing arrangements have worked effectively to make the Internet the highly robust, dynamic and geographically diverse medium that it is today, with the private sector taking the lead in day-to-day operations and with innovation and value creation at the edges. However, almost 4 billion people,

[9] A/68/98 and A/70/174.

representing approximately two thirds of the people residing in developing countries, remain offline.

56. We recognize that there are many cross-cutting international public policy issues that require attention and have not been adequately addressed.

57. We take note of paragraph 29 of the Tunis Agenda, and recognize that the management of the Internet as a global facility includes multilateral, transparent, democratic and multi-stakeholder processes, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities.

58. We reiterate the working definition of Internet governance, set out in paragraph 34 of the Tunis Agenda, as the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

59. We reaffirm the principle agreed in the Geneva Declaration of Principles that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations, within their respective roles and responsibilities, as set out in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda.

60. We take note of the hosting by the Government of Brazil of the NETMundial Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, in São Paulo, on 23 and 24 April 2014.

61. We recognize that there is a need to promote greater participation and engagement in the Internet governance discussions of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders from developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and middle-income countries, as well as countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters. We call for strengthened, stable, transparent and voluntary funding mechanisms to this end.

62. We note the important regulatory and legislative processes in some Member States on the open Internet in the context of the information society and the underlying drivers for it, and call for further information-sharing at the international level on the opportunities and challenges.

63. We acknowledge the role of the Internet Governance Forum as a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues. We support the recommendations in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,[10] which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013, and we call for their accelerated implementation. We extend for another 10 years the existing mandate of the Internet Governance Forum as set out in paragraphs 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda. We recognize that during that period, the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the

[10] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries. We call upon the Commission, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations in the report of its Working Group.

4.1. Enhanced cooperation

64. We acknowledge that various initiatives have been implemented and some progress has been made in relation to the process towards enhanced cooperation detailed in paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda.

65. We note, however, the divergent views held by Member States with respect to the process towards implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda. We call for continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation. We accordingly request the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, taking into consideration the work that has been done on this matter thus far. The group, which shall be constituted no later than July 2016, will decide at the outset on its methods of work, including modalities, and will ensure the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise. The group will submit a report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-first session for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission to the Council. The report will also serve as an input to the regular reporting of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

5. Follow-up and review

66. We reaffirm that the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society will require the continued commitment and action of all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities, and that regular review of progress of the full set of Summit action lines will be essential to achieving the vision of the Summit.

67. We call for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invite the high-level political forum on sustainable development to consider the annual reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. We encourage the members of the United Nations Group on the Information Society to contribute to the reports.

68. We also call for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society in coordinating the work of United Nations agencies, according to their mandates and competencies, and we invite the regional commissions to continue their work in implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews.

69. We recognize that the World Summit on the Information Society Forum has been a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of the World Summit outcomes by all stakeholders, and it should continue to be held annually.

70. We acknowledge the importance of data and statistics to support information and communications technology for development, and call for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as for the inclusion of information and communications technology statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes, and for strengthening local statistical capacity and targeted training by Governments and all other relevant stakeholders. The activities of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development have made a valuable contribution to data gathering and dissemination and should be continued.

71. We recognize that, in the preparation of this review, a number of challenges and opportunities have been identified, requiring longer-term consultations to determine appropriate responses, and that the pace of the development of information and communications technologies necessitates higher-level consideration of progress achieved and future action. We accordingly request the General Assembly to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025, involving the input and participation of all stakeholders, including in the preparatory process, to take stock of progress on the outcomes of the World Summit and identify both areas of continued focus and challenges. We recommend that the outcome of the high-level meeting be an input into the review process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Agenda item 28 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/481)*]

70/126. Promoting social integration through social inclusion

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that, in order to leave no one behind and bring everyone forward, actions are needed to promote equality of opportunity so that no person is denied basic economic opportunities and the enjoyment of all human rights,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010 on promoting social integration and General Assembly resolutions 66/122 of 19 December 2011 and 68/131 of 18 December 2013 on promoting social integration through social inclusion,

Welcoming the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [1] reflects the cross-cutting nature and importance of social inclusion, through the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, and acknowledging that its promotion is required to achieve sustainable development in all of its dimensions,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes, among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are integrated and indivisible, a goal to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Recognizing the great importance of promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, in order to help meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Please recycle

Taking note with appreciation of the commitment of several United Nations entities to mainstream social inclusion in their work, and encouraging others to do the same,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone, as necessary, to eradicate poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty, which should be complemented, as appropriate, by effective social protection policies, including social inclusion policies,

Reaffirming also the importance of reducing inequalities within and among countries through the empowerment of all and the promotion of social, economic and political inclusion, especially for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

Recognizing that the gains of economic growth should also benefit those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

Recognizing also that social inclusion and equality are intrinsically linked and that focusing on and investing in the most disadvantaged and excluded populations, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, is critically important for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing further that social inclusion policies and systems play a critical role in promoting an inclusive society and are also crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion and inclusion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Reaffirming the important role of corporate social responsibility and accountability in contributing to an enabling environment to promote inclusive economic growth and social integration,

Recognizing that social inclusion policies also strengthen the democratic process and play a critical role in progressively realizing economic, social and cultural rights for all,

Stressing that social inclusion policies should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, including women who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights, as an integral part of development policies at all levels, and recognizing the essential contribution that older persons can make to development,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in promoting social integration, inter alia, through social programmes and support for the development of socially inclusive policies,

Acknowledging that the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations is crucial to formulating and implementing social inclusion policies that effectively achieve social integration, as appropriate,

Recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and reaffirming the essential role of national policies and strategies in promoting sustainable development in all of its forms, particularly the promotion of social inclusion,

Recognizing also the importance of an enabling international environment, and stressing the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support national efforts towards promoting social integration through social inclusion in every country, including the fulfilment of all commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building,

Expressing concern that, in times of economic and financial crisis and ongoing concern about energy and food insecurity, social exclusion can be exacerbated, and stressing in this regard that sustainable and reliable social inclusion policies and programmes can play a positive role,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Stresses* that Member States, which bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should prioritize the creation of a "society for all" based on respect for all human rights and the principles of equality among individuals, non-discrimination, access to basic social services and promotion of the active participation of every member of society, in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;

3. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities and that equity and social inclusion are important for achieving sustainable development, ensuring that individuals can participate without discrimination and contribute to its social, economic and environmental dimensions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, especially for older persons and persons with disabilities, and of skills development and quality training, as essential means for inclusive participation and integration in society;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote a more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains, through, inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies, in which employment has a key role, and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, ensuring social protection floors, particularly for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, as defined by each country in accordance with its individual circumstances, including on a demand-driven basis, and the promotion and protection of their social and economic rights;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider, when appropriate, the creation or the strengthening of national institutions or agencies for promoting, implementing and evaluating social inclusion programmes and mechanisms, at the national and local levels, in order to help ensure that nobody is left behind;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive participatory and representative decision-making processes at all levels and to review existing legal frameworks, as appropriate, with a view to removing discriminatory provisions so as to reduce inequalities;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to promote social inclusion as a matter of social justice in order to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and to help them to adapt to the negative impact of economic crises, humanitarian

[2] A/70/179.

emergencies and climate change, and in this regard invites relevant United Nations entities and international institutions to support such efforts;

9. *Invites* Member States, and encourages regional organizations, to support national efforts to achieve inclusive societies, in particular in developing countries, upon their request, by providing, inter alia, financial and technical cooperation for the design and implementation of sound social inclusion policies;

10. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream social integration objectives into social inclusion policies, promoting the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations in planning, implementing and monitoring processes, in collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations;

11. *Invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations to continue to share their experience in respect of practical initiatives to promote economic, civil and political participation and anti-discrimination measures and other measures for advancing social integration;

12. *Invites* Member States to consider a systematic exchange of good practices in social integration at the regional and international levels so that policymakers and other stakeholders can apply them to their national circumstances and step up progress towards achieving a "society for all";

13. *Encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of data disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria for the formulation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving social inclusion, and stresses the importance of international cooperation in this regard;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, taking into account the information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

15. *Decides* to consider the question further at its seventy-second session under the item entitled "Social development".

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17 December 2015

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Agenda item 28 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/481)*]

70/127. Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Welcoming the participation of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly,

Affirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, as well as emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including education, health and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that over 73 million young people are unemployed,

Recalling that Member States have an important role in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, including youth with disabilities, and recognizing that the ways in which young people are able to fulfil their potential will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Acknowledging that the current generation of youth is the largest one ever, and in this context reaffirming the importance of involving youth, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels, in all matters of concern to them, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1]

Recalling the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", by Heads of State and Government on 25 September 2015,[1] and recognizing that the 2030 Agenda includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Welcoming the high-level event held by the General Assembly on 29 May 2015 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which offered an important opportunity for Member States and other relevant

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Please recycle

stakeholders to take stock of progress made in its implementation, as well as to identify gaps and challenges and the way forward for its full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming also the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and his work in addressing the needs of youth, as well as, inter alia, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system,

Noting the convening of the World Conference on Youth, held in Sri Lanka in May 2014, the first Global Forum on Youth Policies, held in Azerbaijan in October 2014, and the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, held in Jordan in August 2015,

Welcoming its designation of 15 July as World Youth Skills Day by its resolution 69/145 of 18 December 2014,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on ways to promote effective, structured and sustainable youth participation;[2]

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth,[3] and emphasizes that all 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of State and Government, reflected in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[1] to leave no one behind, including youth, and to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere real opportunities for full, effective and constructive participation in society;

4. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies and programmes based on the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General[4] for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women, marginalized groups and young people belonging to vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

6. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social integration for social groups such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

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[2] A/70/156.

[3] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[4] E/CN.5/2013/8.

7. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth, and the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth, backed by increased international support and, inter alia, by providing youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities, in order to realize the opportunity of the demographic dividend offered by the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind, and calls for the increased participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the development of such national development strategies;

8. *Emphasizes* the role of education and health literacy in improving health outcomes over a lifetime, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote health education and health literacy among young people, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes, both in and out of school, and through public campaigns, and to increase the access of youth to affordable, safe, effective, sustainable and youth-friendly health-care services and social services, safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene by paying special attention to, and raising awareness regarding, nutrition, including eating disorders, obesity and mental health, the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases, and sexual and reproductive health care, and recognizes the need to develop safe and youth-friendly counselling and substance abuse prevention programmes;

9. *Also emphasizes* that addressing the specific needs of young people in the response to HIV and AIDS is a key element in efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and urges Member States to develop accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, as well as education programmes, including those related to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, and to strengthen efforts in this regard, including by ensuring the active involvement of young people living with or affected by HIV in the response;

10. *Reiterates* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities;

11. *Urges* Member States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as to address gender stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination and violence against girls and young women and the stereotypical roles of men and women that are preclusive of social development, by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, including their sexual and reproductive behaviour;

12. *Also urges* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

13. *Further urges* Member States to address high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to improve the chances of integrating youth in the sustainable labour market and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard reaffirms the commitment of Heads of State and Government to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment by 2020, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the impact of a fair globalization, and encourages Member States to take measures that minimize the negative effects of globalization and maximize its benefits, such as offering relevant education and training for young people in order that they may reach their full personal development, that enable their access to decent jobs and better employment opportunities, in order to meet the needs of changing labour markets, and that enable young migrants to enjoy their human rights;

15. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

16. *Also recognizes* the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and his task of bringing the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization identified in his workplan, and encourages the Envoy to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media, by empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, upon the request of the Member States concerned;

17. *Further recognizes* that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities with direct and indirect implications for the well-being of youth, and which could make youth, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, vulnerable to their adverse impacts, including through suffering disproportionately in labour markets in times of crisis

created by climate change, and calls for the enhanced cooperation of and concerted action by Member States with youth in order to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that the education of youth can play in that respect;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further assist youth in armed conflict situations, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, and to encourage the involvement of young people, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict situations, including in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict processes, and recognizes the importance of protecting schools and universities from military use in contravention of applicable international law during armed conflicts;

19. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. *Also urges* Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people, including youth in marginalized groups affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;

21. *Further urges* Member States to consider including youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

22. *Acknowledges* the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, and requests the United Nations entities, within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon the United Nations entities and relevant partners to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters;

24. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the linkages and complementarities on youth issues between the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be prepared in consultation with Member States as well as the

relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and also encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/481)*]

70/128. Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001, 58/131 of 22 December 2003, 60/132 of 16 December 2005, 62/128 of 18 December 2007, 64/136 of 18 December 2009, 65/184 of 21 December 2010, 66/123 of 19 December 2011 and 68/133 of 18 December 2013 concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a significant factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including their five-year reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[1] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] and noting the acknowledgement therein of the role of cooperatives in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in relation to financing for development,

Noting with appreciation the potential role of cooperative development in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples and rural communities,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

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Welcoming the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to showcase the role of agricultural cooperatives, including in improving food security and nutrition, particularly in rural areas, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving the agricultural productivity of farmers and facilitating access to markets, savings, credit, insurance and technology,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives, in 2012;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to share best practices identified through activities implemented during the International Year of Cooperatives and to continue those activities, as appropriate;

4. *Recalls* the draft plan of action on cooperatives for 2012 and beyond, based on the outcome document of the expert group meeting held in Ulaanbaatar in 2011 for the promotion of cooperatives for sustainable socioeconomic development, to promote focused and effective follow-up to the activities of the International Year, within existing resources;

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to focus support on cooperatives as sustainable and successful business enterprises that contribute directly to employment generation, poverty and hunger eradication, education and social protection, across a variety of economic sectors in urban and rural areas, to review existing legislation concerning cooperatives, to identify opportunities to make the legal environment more supportive of cooperatives and to take action to improve existing legislation or to pass new laws, especially in the areas of access to capital, competitiveness and fair taxation, to enable the growth of cooperatives;

6. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to strengthen and build the capacity of all forms of cooperatives, especially those run by the poor, young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, so that they can empower people to transform their lives and communities positively and build inclusive societies;

7. *Invites* Governments to strengthen efforts to enhance food security and nutrition and to focus efforts on smallholders and women farmers, as well as on agricultural cooperatives and farmers' networks, supported by measures to improve access to markets, enable domestic and international environments and strengthen collaboration across the many initiatives in this area, including regional initiatives;

8. *Encourages* Governments to promote access to information and communications technologies as a vital channel for collaboration and the expansion of cooperatives, especially in rural areas;

9. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify and expand the availability and accessibility of research on the operations and contribution of cooperatives and to establish methodologies for the collection and dissemination of comparable global data on and the best practices of cooperative enterprises, in collaboration with all stakeholders, and to raise public awareness of the linkages between cooperatives and sustainable development, especially in the areas of social inclusion, employment creation, poverty eradication and peacebuilding;

[3] A/70/161.

10. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

11. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, while respecting the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to continue rendering support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, integrating cooperative values, principles and business models into educational programming, including school curricula, as appropriate, providing assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and promoting an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels, within existing resources;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/481)]

70/129. Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/138 of 20 December 2012 on integrating volunteering in the next decade,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, education, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, social integration, social welfare, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Recognizing also that an approach to volunteering may consider drawing on the notion of human security in accordance with all the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, and taking note of the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, such as the International Forum for Volunteering in Development and the International Association for Volunteer Effort,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers programme of the *State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2015: Transforming Governance*, which highlights that volunteerism provides a key channel for enhanced civic engagement from the local to the national and global contexts through local capacity-building, fostering social inclusion and promoting voice, participation, accountability and responsiveness,

Welcoming also the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Please recycle

Conference on Financing for Development,[2] in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that it can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and engage people in the national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that volunteer groups can help to localize the Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development creates unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by Governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on integrating volunteering in the next decade,[3] including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, and recognizes that it could be considered in a flexible and adaptable manner;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;

3. *Encourages* Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and "One United Nations" plans, and also encourages the meaningful participation and integration of volunteers into programmes and projects through the provision of adequate means for volunteer action to promote the inclusion of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

4. *Emphasizes* that volunteerism offers valuable opportunities for youth engagement, leadership and participation to contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing young people to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability;

5. *Commends* the positive contributions of national and international volunteers in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and reaffirms the importance of integrating volunteering into peacebuilding and conflict-prevention activities, as appropriate, to build social cohesion and solidarity;

6. *Also commends* the contributions of volunteers to community resilience for environmental and disaster risk reduction, and calls upon all stakeholders to

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[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[3] A/70/118 and Corr.1.

recognize and integrate the role of volunteers into disaster risk management, as appropriate;

7. *Urges* Governments and all other stakeholders to facilitate volunteer action in poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, recognizing the role that volunteers can play in improving access to employment, education, health care, social protection and public goods through engagement in participatory planning, implementation and monitoring, as appropriate;

8. *Urges* Governments and all related stakeholders to incorporate volunteerism into gender mainstreaming strategies, recognizing that peer-to-peer informal volunteering can help to reduce violence against women and girls, contribute to the achievement of gender equality, empower women and girls and strengthen their civic and political participation and leadership;

9. *Invites* Member States to mobilize and support the research community globally to carry out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, including collecting data disaggregated by gender, age and disability, in partnership with civil society, in order to provide sound knowledge as a foundation for policies and programmes;

10. *Encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity and knowledge transmission through volunteering programmes;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to support United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms, especially for those who are marginalized or in remote locations;

12. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

13. *Requests* Member States to give full consideration to the plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations system, multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia and volunteer-involving organizations to support, as appropriate, the institutional and resource arrangements set out therein, while recognizing that in the case of the United Nations system this will be done through voluntary contributions;

14. *Invites* the collaboration of the United Nations Volunteers programme and other organizations, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in jointly organizing a global technical meeting in 2020 to further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Recognizes* the United Nations Volunteers programme as the appropriate United Nations entity to support the implementation of the plan of action, and expects the programme to coordinate the work to consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, promote successful volunteer actions and ensure that the differentiated impact of volunteers on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is documented as part of regular national policy, planning and implementation practices;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, under the item entitled "Social development".

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 29 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/482)*]

70/130. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and also recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the World Summit for Social Development[5] and their reviews,

Reaffirming also the provisions concerning women migrants contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[6] and calling upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

Reaffirming further that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[8] and

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[1] Resolution 48/104.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

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the Optional Protocols thereto,[9] as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda covers the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment, and also acknowledging the need, inter alia, to end all violence and discrimination against them,

Acknowledging the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including in supporting national efforts, to increase women's access to economic opportunities, including for women migrant workers, and to end violence against them, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2014–2017,[11] which has among its six goals increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to services for survivors, and acknowledging the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[4] and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[12] and their reviews,

Welcoming the political declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[13] and taking note, in particular, of the pledge to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session,[14] and taking note, in particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination, promote and protect the full realization of their human rights and their protection against violence and exploitation, implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as integration into the labour force,

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[9] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

[11] UNW/2013/6.

[12] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[13] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

[14] Ibid., *2013, Supplement No. 7* (E/2013/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling the declaration of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,[15] held on 3 and 4 October 2013, which reaffirmed the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability,

Recalling also that the declaration recognized that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasized in this regard the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in domestic work,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session, of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and Recommendation No. 201 on decent work for domestic workers, of the International Labour Organization, and the entry into force of the Convention on 5 September 2013, and inviting States to consider ratifying it, encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,[16] and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[17] to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,[18] acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, particularly of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of Recommendation No. 203 on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour, of the International Labour Organization,

Recognizing also the increasing participation of women of all skill levels in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

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[15] Resolution 68/4.

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38), part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[18] CMW/C/GC/1.

Recognizing further that the demand for migrant care work appears to be rising, where the failure to resolve care deficits and secure public provision of care has increased the demand for care work, particularly in the private sphere, and that some migrant workers engaged in informal care work, particularly women, face serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace, while many benefit from the economic opportunities offered by care work,

Recognizing the roles and responsibilities of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing also that women migrant workers have the potential to foster equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development through the economic and social impacts, as a result of their work, on countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic and care workers,

Recognizing further the particular vulnerability and needs of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and contemporary forms of slavery, inter alia, all forms of forced labour and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that one of the key causes of the labour exploitation suffered by migrants, including women migrant workers, is linked to the unscrupulous practices of some recruitment agencies and informal brokers that charge high recruitment fees, and noting with concern the reports of abuse committed by some recruitment agencies and employers,

Recognizing also that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class, race and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

Reaffirming the commitment to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[19] to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Noting that the priority theme of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be "Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development" and that migration can enable equitable, inclusive and sustainable

[19] Resolution 61/295, annex.

growth and human development for countries of origin and destination, migrants and their families, and in this regard recognizing the potential role of women migrant workers in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 12 June 2015, at its 104th session, of Recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Recognizing also that the vulnerabilities documented for women migrant workers highlight increasingly complex migration contexts and channels, where migrant workers may find themselves in life-threatening situations when entering other countries,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and of the relevant special procedures, as well as of the supervisory mechanisms of the International Labour Organization in monitoring the implementation of labour rights instruments, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;[20]

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[21] which highlights, inter alia, that overall progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that marginalized groups of women, including migrant women, are at particular risk of discrimination and violence;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),[22] the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),[23] the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)[24] and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[17] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[25] the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[26] the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[27] and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[28] as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, calls upon States parties to comply with their relevant obligations under international law, and also encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;[29]

4. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants submitted to the Council at its seventeenth and twentieth sessions,[30] in particular their elaboration of the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by irregular migrants, including negative public perceptions and limited access to protection, assistance and justice, and of the report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the Council at its twenty-sixth session,[31] in particular the focus of its thematic part on labour exploitation of migrants, covering some of the most common manifestations of labour exploitation affecting migrants;

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[20] A/70/205.

[21] E/CN.6/2015/3.

[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 120, No. 1616.

[23] Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.

[24] Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.

[25] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[26] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

[27] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[28] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[29] Resolution 64/293.

[30] A/HRC/17/33 and A/HRC/20/24.

[31] A/HRC/26/35.

5. *Encourages* all United Nations agencies and special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, including in supply chains, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the agencies and special rapporteurs in this regard;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter irregular migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses, and to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems;

8. *Encourages* Governments to seek to address the push and pull factors surrounding women's irregular migration, including the need to resolve care deficits in labour-importing countries and to regulate, formalize, professionalize and protect the terms and conditions of employment in care work, in line with national law and applicable obligations under international law;

9. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by promoting decent work, by, inter alia, adopting minimum wage policies and employment contracts in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support, exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

10. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to respect, promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, especially girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, commercial sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

11. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights and, where applicable, labour rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

12. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

13. *Encourages* States to consider designing and implementing financial literacy training programmes for women migrant workers and, where appropriate, their families, and other programmes that may contribute to the full development impact of migration;

14. *Calls upon* States to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women migrant workers through education, dissemination of information and awareness-raising, by promoting their empowerment and access to decent work and, where relevant, their integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and by promoting their participation in public life, as appropriate;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to promote access to adequate health-care services for women migrant workers and their accompanying children;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers and their accompanying children, regardless of their immigration status, to have access without discrimination to emergency health care, including in times of humanitarian crises, natural disasters and other emergency situations, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

17. *Encourages* Governments to ensure the appropriate use of voluntary and confidential HIV testing and pregnancy testing to prevent unwarranted barriers prior to and during migration;

18. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against

recruitment agencies and employers, including terminating their contracts in case of labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

19. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their immigration status, in line with domestic legislation, with the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

20. *Also calls upon* Governments to ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes are in place for women migrant workers' access to justice, to enhance, develop or maintain legal frameworks and specific gender-sensitive policies to explicitly meet their needs and rights and, where necessary, to take appropriate steps to reform existing legislation and policies to capture their needs and protect their rights;

21. *Further calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions, in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

22. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

23. *Encourages* Governments to formulate, implement and refine training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

24. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

25. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[32] to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality and, in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

26. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

27. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their applicable legal obligations, to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis, in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that this process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

28. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

(*a*) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(*b*) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(*c*) To support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

29. *Requests* Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the declaration of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,[15] held in

[32] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, in order to ensure that the human rights and human development aspects of women's migration are adequately integrated into national, regional and international development policy and practice, such as poverty reduction strategies and strategies aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations system and related entities to continue and step up their efforts and promote partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and to coordinate their work in support, as appropriate, of effective implementation of relevant international and regional instruments in order to enhance their impact through concrete positive outcomes for the advancement of women migrant workers' rights;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

United Nations A/RES/70/131

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 29 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/482)*]

70/131. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/138 of 18 December 2013,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth to sixtieth sessions;[2]

3. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the status of the Convention.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

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[1] A/70/124.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/70/38).

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General Assembly

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23 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 29 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/482)*]

70/132. Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007, 64/140 of 18 December 2009, 66/129 of 19 December 2011 and 68/139 of 18 December 2013,

Affirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[5] and other human rights instruments,

Taking note of the provisions pertaining to women and girls in rural areas contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the Beijing Declaration[6] and Platform for Action[7] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[8] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[9] and recalling other instruments, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,[10]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[7] Ibid., annex II.
[8] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[9] Resolution 69/2.
[10] Resolution 41/128, annex.

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Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[11] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[12]

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recognizing that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food security and nutrition in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Expressing concern that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to quality education, health-care services, justice, land, water and sanitation and other resources, as well as to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, and expressing concern also about their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

Recognizing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security[13] and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,[14] endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, which embrace gender equality as one of the main guiding principles of implementation in order to help address the ongoing disparities with regard to access to and control of land and other natural resources,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[15]

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(*a*) Creating an enabling environment for improving their situation and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full and equal participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[11]

(*b*) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, including by promoting and

[11] Resolution 70/1.
[12] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[13] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.
[14] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.
[15] A/70/204.

protecting the right to vote and to be elected and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and through support for women's and farmers' organizations in which subsistence and smallholder women farmers are members, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(*c*) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women, women with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of and follow-up to programmes and strategies for gender equality, the empowerment of women and rural development;

(*d*) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, the mitigation of post-conflict situations, peace mediation, the impacts of climate change and emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women and girls in this regard;

(*e*) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender machineries and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and paying increased attention to the needs of rural women to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(*f*) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in decision-making processes and the governance of natural resources, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources, and enhancing the capacities of Governments, civil society and development partners to better understand and address gender issues in the management and governance of natural resources;

(*g*) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health, by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning, information and education, increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the elimination of harmful practices and the prevention, treatment and care of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[16] the Beijing Platform for Action[7] and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(*h*) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices to improve the health and nutrition of rural women and girls;

[16] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

(*i*) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food security and nutrition and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, social support measures and health care, including HIV prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(*j*) Designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence and discrimination;

(*k*) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection and/or social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources and their empowerment through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on the provision of support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(*l*) Valuing and supporting the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women in rural areas, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an essential contribution to food security and nutrition;

(*m*) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(*n*) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(*o*) Supporting women entrepreneurs and women smallholder farmers, including those in subsistence farming, by continuing to provide public investment and to encourage private investment in rural women to close the gender gap in agriculture, and facilitating their access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs and land, water sanitation and irrigation, markets and innovative technologies;

(*p*) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(*q*) Seeking to ensure and improve equal access for rural women to decent work in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, supporting and promoting

opportunities in small enterprises, sustainable social enterprises and cooperatives and improving working conditions;

(*r*) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and for women to engage in self-employment or to participate in the labour market;

(*s*) Taking steps to ensure that women's and girls' unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production are recognized, and promoting shared responsibility within the household with a view to reducing and equitably distributing the burden of such unpaid work;

(*t*) Supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment for rural women, including in the informal sector, including measures to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions faced by rural women;

(*u*) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(*v*) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors and the impact of climate change while promoting rural women's full and equal participation in protecting the environment;

(*w*) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(*x*) Addressing the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistical information on disabilities, to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(*y*) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls;

(*z*) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinancing, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure their equal access to justice and legal support;

(*aa*) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system, including through approaches that attract and retain female students and teachers and that consider the specific needs of rural women and girls in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and

discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men and girls and boys;

(*bb*) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media, and taking concrete measures to improve rural women's skills, productivity and employment opportunities through technical, agricultural and vocational education and training;

3. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote access to social protection for female-headed rural households;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full and equal participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning their reports to those Committees when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive and climate-sensitive rural development strategies and agricultural production, including budget frameworks and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food security and nutrition;

8. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to give consideration to the issue of the empowerment of rural women in a timely and appropriate manner;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015